(c) the effective steps proposed to create awareness among the people to check spreading of AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Sir. UNAIDS/WHO has published a report on the global HIV/AIDS epidemic in June, 1998, in which they had reported that India has about 4 million HIV infected persons.

(b) No, Sir. The National Telephone Hotline Service set up by NACO is a computerised interactive voice response system information and counseling on STDs/HIV/AIDS. The caller requires about 5 minutes to access the complete information. A toll free four digit number 1097 has been made available by MTNL to NACO for this purpose. The computerized system enables access to information 24 hours a day and also ensures that the information is accurate and complete.

(c) Information, Education and Communication (IEC) is an important thrust area for the prevention and control of HIV and the Government has taken a number of steps to create awareness and bring about behavioural change.

- A nation-wide comapaign has been launched thorugh the mass media viz. Doordarshan, AIR and the print media on the national network and regional channel to create awareness among the general public.
- Greater emphasis is being given to create awareness in rural areas through folk media, local troupes, street plays etc.
- An intensive programme has been taken up to provide information and counselling services through centres run by NGOs. This includes the setting up of the National AIDS Telephone Hotline.
- A number of NGOs have been given financial and technical support to take up targetted interventions programmes in intravenous drug users, truckers, street children, migrant labour etc.
- A national plan has been launched for education and sensitizing youth through a school based programme. College youth are being sensitized through the NSS activities.
- For non-student and rural youth, programmes are being launched through the Nehru Yuvak Kendras.

Measures to control T.B.

4185. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WEFLARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a casual approach to the control of T.B. in the country;

(b) to what extent in-sanitary life-style is the cause of spread of T.B. in the country;

(c) whether Government have made any efforts to educate the public on the dangerous spread of this disease;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the World Health Organisation has also been consulted on the T.B. disease in the counry; and

(f) if so, what is their contribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) T.B. is a bacterial disease caused by Mycrobacterium tuberculosis sometimes called tubercle bacilli, or acid fast bacilli. Tubercle bacilli can remain dormat in tissues and persist for many years. The infection is transmitted by inhalation of infected droplet nucle which are discharged in the air when TB patient coughs or sneezes. The other factors like insanitary conditions, mal-nutrition etc., compound the problem.

(c) and (d) In order to educate the masses about the facts of the T.B. the different channel of media communications such as Doordarshan, All India Radio, D.A.V.P. have been tapped.

(e) and (f) World Health Organisation provides technical support to the Natonal T.B. Control Programme. The Revised National T.B. Control Programme was evolved with technical assistance of World Health Organisation.

Out-break of Gastro-Enteritis in Assam

4186. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government are aware that Gastro-enteritis broke out in tea-gardens of upper Assam in an epidemic form and took tolls of several lives;

(b) if so, the help offered to the State Health Department by the Ministry;

(c) whether the tea-companies of Assam will be directed to have good medical facilities including doctors, nurses, and medicines for eradicating health-hazards of tea workers; and

(d) whether a comprehensive legislature would be brought for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One officer was deputed from National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi during 30.6.98 to 7.7.98 to assist the State Health authorities in epidemiological investigations and also to suggest preventive and control measures.

(c) and (d) Since Health is a State subject, it is for the State Government to take necessary action in this matter;

Steps to curb production and sale of Synthetic Milk

4187. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-report appearing in the Pioneer, dated the 5th May, 1998 under the caption "Piyo glassful, but don't get fooled";

(b) if so, the steps taken to curb the production and sale of "synthetic milk" in the northern States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi since this horrendous activity came to light in the early Nineties;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act to provide for deterrent punishment for this crime against humanity; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sale of adulterated milk is already prohibited under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. The Food Health Authorities of States/U. Ts. have been advised to step up surveillance measures to ensure quality of milk.

(c) Sale of adulterated milk is already a punishable offence under the provisions of P.F.A. Act, 1954.

(d) Does not arise.

Lobbying for inclusion of Hepatitis 'B' under EIP

4188. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to include